



# The Edit

## Editorial

# The Justice Center Cometh

After a long wait, ground breaking from the new Justice Center Complex is within sight. The County Commissioners are expected to meet with the architects for the facility on April 25 for the final plan review and acceptance of the drawings. The working drawings will be released to general contractors wishing to bid on May 2. The bid opening on the project is planned for May 25 and county officials have their fingers crossed, hoping the bids come in under budget.

The budget has become a major hurdle for the county in these final stages of preparation. Site changes, additions of more office space and other unexpected concerns have all driven the total package price dangerously close, if not over, the budget accepted in the county-wide bond issue. As with any project this size, the master plan has been expanded, but funding for the changes has not been provided. Unfortunately, this means five alternatives have been proposed to delete from the project if bids are too high.

Some of these alternatives are unacceptable. By far the worst alternative is the elimination of the kitchen, something unthinkable in a 52 person jail. Perhaps the alternatives should be to eliminate those things added after the master plan was adopted. Sheriff Spanos is certainly to be commended for his foresight several years ago in identifying the growing demands being placed on our jail facility. Even so, the county fathers may have hindered the

sheriff's efforts by losing sight of the basic need for jail space and allowing continued additions to the master plan - to the point that some of the basic jail facilities may now suffer.

As Wasatch County continues to grow at such an alarming rate, there continues to be an overwhelming demand on county services. At the same time, the county's revenues do not grow at the same rate. Unfortunately, with that growth comes an increase in crime and a larger need for criminal detention facilities. For the past several weeks, the jail has been full to overcrowded. Jail house lawyers have threatened to sue the county because of the crowded conditions and prisoners have even been released to make room for those with more dangerous criminal histories.

Given the crowded conditions, the time to build the jail is already past. It is now time to do whatever is needed to get the jail completed as soon as possible, with all the necessary facilities in place. A full jail without a kitchen will only end up costing the county more money in the long run in terms of catered meals and the inability to provide the required services. If more money is needed to build the jail the right way, let's do it right. It makes more sense to spend a little bit more now, than to have an incomplete jail that requires more money later. The jail needs to be built quickly, but not by sacrificing needed items as a means of correcting past mistakes.





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# County Survey Comes Out Today

Sharpen your pencils and prepare to help plan the county's future, the General Planning Committee is sending out a county-wide survey today to help determine the goals of the revised Comprehensive (Master) Plan. The project, in conjunction with *The Wasatch Wave*, is targeted to every mailing address in the county, as well as newspaper inserts. *The Wave* helped write the questions and also donated the printing and distribution of the survey.

Citizens are urged to take a few minutes and fill out the survey, stating their visions for future planning in Wasatch County. The survey poses 11 questions, plus some demographic data that will provide public input which will be combined with information from public meetings, written comments and personal interviews. All the information collected will show which areas of the county favor

certain approaches to future growth and identify the county's goals as a whole.

The county asks citizens to mail the questionnaire in, or drop it by the county offices no later than April 29, so the data may be compiled as soon as possible. The survey may be folded in half and taped or stapled to keep the answers confidential. While the questions do not address every issue facing the county, it is hoped to provide information in some general areas and inform the county planners about what the citizen's concerns are.

In other matters, the General Planning Committee met Monday afternoon and continued to review the 1974 Master Plan. Sections on land ownership, history, topography and others were revised, with Tracy Richardson to present revisions at the next meeting.

## Project 2002 To Help Determine Needs

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